DAWN

KARACHI Tuesday, November 11, 2025

# METRO South

**KARACHI**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunset | 05:47pm |
| Sunrise (Tomorrow) | 06:45am |

**NEXT 24 HRS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Minimum | 16°C |
| Maximum | 29°C |
| Humidity | 60% |
| Outlook | Partly Cloudy |

**High-flying Pakistan take on strong SL in next ODI challenge**

Pg.18 SPORT

(CLOCKWISE from top) Ordinary citizens respect the law and stop their vehicles before the zebra crossing at a traffic intersection in Clifton near Do Talwar to avoid hefty e-challans, but a truck (bottom), a police mobile van, and a bus with no number plates are seen beating the recently introduced AI-based fine system on Sharea Faisal and Dr Ziauddin Ahmed Road with impunity, as such vehicles cannot be issued e-tickets.—Shakil Adil / Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

# Govt mulls reduction in e-challan amount amid uproar over hefty fines

• IGP agrees long-term success of initiative links to inter-agency coordination • Says owners who sold their vehicles but getting e-tickets have to visit traffic facilitation centre to submit evidence • Concedes vehicles without number plates or bearing AFR markings cannot be issued automatic e-tickets

By Azfar-ul-Ashfaque and Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Following public backlash over the recently introduced e-ticketing system — particularly in light of heavy traffic fines and inadequate road infrastructure — the Sindh government is considering reducing the fine amount of challans for various violations.

On Oct 27, the Sindh chief minister inaugurated the AI-powered Traffic Regulation and Citation System (Tracs) and within one week the traffic police sent around 30,000 challans worth millions of rupees to registered owners of vehicles for violations, including not wearing seatbelt, tinted glasses, riding motorbike without helmet, etc.

Citizens and political parties have been criticising the Pakistan Peoples Party-led Sindh government and police for imposing heavy fines just to "mint money".

At least three petitions have been filed before the Sindh High Court and notices have been issued to the Sindh government and police on two of them.

However, it is heartening to see vehicles stopping at traffic lights in designated areas, and motorcyclists wearing helmets ever since the new system became functional.

Sources told *Dawn* that Karachi-based politicians belonging to the ruling party as well as some senior police officials had expressed their concerns to the provincial government high-ups that a very good initiative had been politicised by certain quarters for their own political gains only because of the fact that "fines on some of the violations are on a very higher side".

They suggested that the provincial government could counter this criticism by rationalising or lowering traffic fines for a period of its own choice.

The sources added that there was a growing realisation within the government and police circles that fines alone could not bring about a change in the traffic culture of the metropolis.

They emphasised the need to involve civic bodies as well as the Excise and Taxation Department in a coordinated effort to make the system more effective.

"Yes, absolutely," replied Inspector General of Sindh Police Ghulam Nabi Memon when asked whether the success of the new system hinged on close cooperation between traffic police, district and local administration and agencies responsible for improved infrastructure in the city and without this the e-ticketing system and the police would continue to earn people's ire.

"The long-term success of Tracs depends on strong inter-agency coordination between traffic police, local administrations, excise department, TMCs, KMC, and other civic bodies," he added.

Responding to another question whether the fines were proportionate to Karachiites' average monthly income, he

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# Court orders probe into around Rs5bn scam in Sindh Workers Welfare Board

Manipulation of tendering process to award contracts to favourites alleged

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A special anti-corruption court has directed the director general (DG) of the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) to initiate an inquiry against officials allegedly involved in embezzling around Rs5 billion in tenders of the Sindh Workers Welfare Board (WWB).

The direction was issued by the special judge, Anti-Corruption Court (Provincial), on a direct complaint filed by a citizen, Tariq Mustafa, against the WBB secretary, director works and director finance; managing director of the Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (SPPRA), contractors and others.

The complainant alleged that the officials had manipulated and fraudulently conducted the procurement process for development works with an estimated cost of approximately Rs5bn. The tenders were issued on March 20.

"In view of statement of complainant, matter requires further enquiry. The same be sent to director-general ACE for enquiry under 202 CrPC through responsible officials and report to this court to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the complaint. The complainant is directed to cooperate with the enquiry officer," the court order said.

It also directed submission of a report before the court within four weeks after receiving a copy of the order.

In his application, the complainant contended that the tendering process was subverted through collusion among the respondents, who allegedly embezzled a huge sum by awarding contracts to their "favourite contractors".

The complainant further claimed that the tender advertisements were purportedly published by the officials in several newspapers mentioned in the procurement file.

However, the complainant claimed, after independent inspection, it was found that copies of these newspapers available in public markets, libraries and archives contained no such tender notices. He added that the published clippings placed in the procurement file were fabricated solely to create the impression of compliance.

"This manipulation was done intentionally to grant unlawful advantage to chosen firms. The tender advertisements were falsely shown as published in fake and non-existing newspapers… whereas the said notices were never actually published, and fabricated clippings were placed in the officials' record to mislead audit and oversight authorities," the application said.

The complainant further alleged that an official of the SPPRA had concealed the tender on its online portal. He claimed that although the tender was initially uploaded, it was deliberately hidden or archived within a few minutes, rendering it effectively inaccessible to the public and prospective bidders. "This concealment prevented genuine competition and was executed in collusion with SPPRA staff," the complainant alleged.

The tendering process represents a gross and deliberate violation of the SPPRA rules, he

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# 27th Amendment addresses long-standing gap in Constitution: Bilawal

Inaugurates direct cash transfer initiative under Wheat Growers Support Programme 2025

By M.B. Kalhoro

LARKANA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari inaugurated the direct cash transfer initiative under the Sindh government's Wheat Growers Support Programme 2025 describing it as a pioneering milestone in the country's history.

The financial assistance is aimed at enabling farmers to purchase DAP and urea fertilisers through the Benazir Hari Card.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said his party believed that "nation prospers when farmer prospers".

"Our vision is to ensure that farmers and small growers are not burdened with the cost of purchasing DAP and urea," he said.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari added that on his instructions, the chief minister of Sindh and his team have devised a comprehensive plan to provide financial assistance to farmers and small cultivators across the province for the purchase of DAP and urea fertilisers.

Addressing the Benazir Hari Cardholders present at the ceremony, he said that the financial assistance has now been directly transferred to their accounts.

He said that under this programme, this assistance is being provided to the farmers owning between one and 25 acres of land. He added that "nearly 90 per cent of farmers in Sindh fall within this category."

The PPP chairman said that farmers across the country have been facing great hardships in recent years. He noted that the burden of damage to the agricultural economy has been borne by farmers in Larkana, Punjab, and South Punjab.

Due to international agreements, provincial governments had been restrained from purchasing wheat or announcing support prices, he said, adding that, following his appeal, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared both a 'climate emergency' and an 'agricultural emergency' in the country, and also waived electricity bills for consumers living in flood-affected areas of Punjab.

He also appreciated the prime minister's efforts to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund to allow the provincial governments to announce support prices and procure wheat for the benefit of farmers.

**Constitutional amendments**

Speaking about the country's political situation and the proposed constitutional amendments, the PPP chairman said that "a lot is happening in Islamabad right now." He emphasised that the PPP considered the Constitution to be the "sacred trust of Quaid-i-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto". He said that whether it was the Constitution of 1973 or the 18th Amendment, the PPP has always prioritised consensus-based legislation. "Whenever a constitutional amendment or law is made, political forces must find a middle ground," he said.

He also said that whether it was the drafting of the 1973 Constitution or the passage of the 18th Amendment, the people of Larkana played a frontline role. "If the sweat and blood of workers form the foundation of our economy, then the same sweat and blood of the people of Larkana form the foundation of our Constitution," he remarked. Referring to the 27th Amendment, he said that the "PPP has once again addressed a long-standing gap in the Constitution".

The people of Larkana, he added, understand why this was essential "because they witnessed with their own eyes that the bench which sentenced Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

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BILAWAL Bhutto-Zardari speaks at the ceremony of direct cash transfer initiative in Larkana on Monday.—Dawn

# Car driver runs over, kills two homeless men in Clifton

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A speeding car killed two homeless men sleeping on a footpath and injured two others near the shrine of Abdullah Shah Ghazi in the Clifton area early Monday morning, police said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the driver of a Toyota Corolla first hit a bike rider and then a pole. The car then came onto the footpath and ran over the destitute people sleeping there, injuring them badly.

They were taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, where doctors pronounced two of them, identified as Kareem and Shabbir Ahmed, dead. Two other victims, Tahir Ali and Shakeel Hayat, were admitted for treatment.

The car driver, Ahmed Ghanchi, was also injured.

The officer said the blood samples of the driver taken at the hospital showed that he was under the influence of alcohol.

**Youth dies as rickshaw rams into motorcycle**

A youth was killed and his elder brother was injured in a collision between a rickshaw and a motorcycle in North Nazimabad on Monday morning.

According to a traffic police officer, the accident occurred in Block A near KE office. The brothers, who were on a motorcycle, sustained critical injuries and were taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, where doctors pronounced Shahzeb, 20, dead while his elder brother Jehanzeb, 25, was admitted for treatment.

In another incident in Baldia Town, two trailers collided with each other on Monday. As a result, one driver was injured.

# Another PPP worker shot dead in Orangi Town

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Another young worker of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was gunned down in Orangi Town on Monday morning, police said.

Iqbal Market SHO Shahbaz Yusuf said that Mohammed Shoaib Iqbal, 23, was on his way home in Yaqoobabad, Sector 11 ½ at around 2am when unidentified assailants targeted him.

He was shot multiple times and taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival, he said.

The SHO said that the victim was associated with the PPP. He was also a member of the social media team of Orangi Town Nazim Jameel Zia of the PPP.

However, he suspected some personal enmity behind the incident and added that the police were waiting for relatives to lodge an FIR to formally initiate legal proceedings.

He said that investigations were underway to ascertain the exact motive and identity of the killers.

Earlier in April, another PPP worker and union committee chairman Amir Abdul Kalam was shot dead in a targeted attack in the same Orangi Town area. Later, the police had arrested two suspects and claimed that the murder was motivated by a land dispute.